



In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

Weekly Weather Crop Report

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Week ending March 25, 2007

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According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Mississippi, there were 6.6 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending Sunday, March 25, 2007**. Planting continued across the state, despite many regions becoming exceedingly dry. In the most extreme areas, farmers have either put planting on hold due to lack of soil moisture or utilized irrigation equipment to assist in planting and germination. The lack of rain has also affected cattle producers, promoting a continued decline of forages and preventing adequate growth in ryegrass. Both crops and pastures would benefit from a substantial rainfall. Soil moisture was rated 30 percent very short, 54 percent short, 15 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus.

Crop progress for week ending 03/25/07

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Corn, planted	76	50	28	20
Corn, emerged	36	5	10	4
Soybeans, planted	8	4	1	1
Watermelons, planted	23	4	21	10
Winter Wheat, jointing	55	44	45	36
Winter Wheat, heading	5	1	1	--

Crop condition for week ending 03/25/07

Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Blueberries	0	0	31	56	13
Livestock	7	16	33	41	3
Pasture	11	25	40	23	1
Winter Wheat	0	4	25	54	17

Comments

“We are being hurt by dry conditions. Wheat and recently emerged crops are in need of a good 1" rain to keep them growing. We also need rain on fields yet to be planted. If we don't receive some rainfall in the next week, I expect to see some irrigation to begin. A few pivots are already running.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Soil moisture is very low for this time of year. Some have been forced to stop planting because of poor moisture. In areas where irrigation is possible, producers are irrigating to plant or to germinate seed already planted. The crop is at a critical stage, and failure to receive rain for another week will lead to long term problems.”

— Ernest Flint, Attala

“The County is 7 inches below average on rainfall. Farmers have applied burndown to fields but are waiting on a rain to begin planting. Cattle are keeping up with forages where producers are normally stockpiling fescue and ryegrass.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Producers have stopped waiting on rain and have begun planting. Over half the county's corn acreage was planted last week. A little under half the watermelons were set in the field. The entire county needs rain.”

— Victor Lee, Simpson

“Lack of rainfall continues into spring. Producers who have planted corn, sorghum and watermelons are in desperate need of rain to get good stands of these crops.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“Dry weather creeps on and we need the moisture. Winter pastures are looking bad and we were already short on hay. Burndown has started for cotton and peanuts and it would be good to build some moisture before time to plant.”

— Mike Steede, George

“We need rain in Coahoma County. Center pivots are running to get corn up. Our wheat crop needs some moisture. There are some aphids in wheat and some fields are being sprayed.”

— Don Respass, Coahoma

“We need a general rain. Wheat is holding up but would look and grow a lot better with the right kind of rain. Corn stages vary from knee high to just being planted. Very few cattlemen have hay left and the grass that the cattle are chasing around the pasture is of very little food value.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“Producers are preparing fields to plant corn. We are in need of some rain because most areas are dry.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“We will wrap up corn planting by early this week. It is getting extremely dry. We will need rain before bean and cotton planting, as well as, for the ryegrass and pastures.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Strawberries will be ready to harvest in 10 more days in the Starkville area.”

— Jeff Wilson, Lowndes

“Winter wheat is in good condition with no insect or disease problems observed at this time. Corn planting is progressing with some tilled areas experiencing a lack of moisture for germination.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“March weather has been more like April; only drier. Due to dry soil conditions, most all planting activities have stopped. Some irrigation systems are running to help with corn emergence, activation of herbicides and moving nitrogen fertilizer into the soil profile. Areas in some wheat fields are showing signs of moisture stress.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“If it doesn't hurry up and rain this month, we will set a record for the driest March ever, which isn't a good sign. Hopefully this trend won't hold up for the rest of the summer. Winter forages are growing – especially where they have received some form of nitrogen.”

— Houston Therrell, Rankin

“Pastures are in desperate need of a good soaking rain.”

— Ruby D. Rankin, Kemper

“Forage conditions are on the decline in Lawrence County due to a lack of rain. Hay reserves are at an all time low and rye grass is dying off due to warmer temperatures and low soil moisture.”

— Amanda Walker, Lawrence

“Dry weather creeps on and we need the moisture. Winter pastures are looking bad and we were already short on hay. Burndown has started for cotton and peanuts and it would be good to build some moisture before time to plant.”

— Mike Steede, George

“We are too dry. It looks like a repeat of last year.”

— Mark Gillie, Greene

“Corn continues to be planted, however it is getting dry. Beef producers and other farmers are looking for rain. Blueberry growers are running their irrigation.”

— Allen McReynolds, Wayne

(Additional comments appear at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>)

Mississippi Weather Summary for Week Ending 03/25/07													
Division/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Plan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
Upper Delta													
Cleveland	85	45	67	55	12	0.00	-1.26	0	0.35				
Lambert	88	44	69			0.00	-1.27	0	0.42				
Tunica	82	55	68	55	13	0.00	-1.32	0	0.69				
Extreme/Average	88	44	68	56	13	0.00	-1.28	0	1.46				
North-Central													
Calhoun City	85	43	65	55	10	0.00	-1.33	0	1.00				
Hickory Flat	81	40	62	53	9	0.00	-1.40	0	0.55				
Independence	82	41	66	53	13	0.00	-1.19	0	0.55				
Oxford	85	49	67	53	14	0.00	-1.33	0	0.38				
Extreme/Average	85	40	65	55	11	0.00	-1.31	0	0.62				
Northeast													
Booneville				54		0.00	-1.45	0	1.30				
Iuka				51		0.00	0.00	0	2.01				
Ripley	83	39	64	53	11	0.00	-1.40	0	0.79				
Tupelo	84	52	66			0.00	0.00	0	2.79				
Verona	86	43	65	55	10	0.00	-1.36	0	0.58				
Extreme/Average	86	39	65	55	10	0.00	-1.40	0	1.49				
Lower Delta													
Moorhead	84	55	68	58	10	0.00	-1.40	0	0.21				
Rolling Fork	89	54	69	57	12	0.00	-1.46	0	0.18				
Stoneville	85	51	69	57	12	0.00	-1.32	0	0.28				
Yazoo City	83	51	68	59	9	0.00	-1.59	0	0.00				
Extreme/Average	89	51	69	58	11	0.00	-1.44	0	0.17				
Central													
Canton	83	45	65	59	6	0.00	-1.40	0	0.04				
Carthage	82	47	63	57	6	0.00	-1.40	0	0.72				
Eupora	85	39	64	55	9	0.00	-1.54	0	0.74				
Lexington	84	41	64	57	7	0.00	-1.40	0	0.24				
Extreme/Average	85	39	64	57	7	0.00	-1.43	0	0.44				
East-Central													
Aberdeen	85	44	65	55	10	0.00	-1.42	0	0.54				
Houston	83	44	63	54	9	0.00	-1.49	0	0.75				
Philadelphia	87	34	66	58	8	0.00	-1.46	0	0.74				
State University	84	41	65	56	9	0.00	-1.40	0	0.54				
Extreme/Average	87	34	65	55	8	0.00	-1.44	0	0.64				
Southwest													
Crystal Springs	85	50	66	60	6	0.00	-1.40	0	0.25				
Natchez	85	51	68	61	7	0.00	-1.59	0	0.65				
Oakley	82	32	63	58	5	0.00	-1.47	0	0.34				
Vicksburg	84	53	67			0.00	0.00	0	0.32				
Extreme/Average	85	32	67	60	7	0.00	-1.48	0	0.39				
South-Central													
Collins	82	42	63	59	4	0.00	-1.52	0	0.40				
Columbia	85	46	65	60	5	0.00	-1.52	0	1.01				
Tylertown				61		0.00	-1.41	0	1.37				
Extreme/Average	85	42	64	60	4	0.00	-1.48	0	0.93				
Southeast													
Beaumont						0.00	0.00	0	0.00				
Hattiesburg	86	41	66	60	6	0.00	-1.47	0	0.77				
Laurel	84	44	64	59	5	0.00	-1.41	0	0.40				
Newton	84	38	61	57	4	0.00	-1.47	0	0.55				
Extreme/Average	86	38	63	59	4	0.00	-1.45	0	0.57				
Coastal													
Gulfport	79	53	66	63	3	0.00	-1.33	0	1.50				
Pascagoula 3 NE				60		0.00	-1.39	0	0.00				
Picayune	81	45	63	61	2	0.00	-1.47	0	1.50				
Extreme/Average	81	45	64	62	2	0.00	-1.39	0	1.00				
State	89	32	66	58	8	0.00	-1.46	0	0.50				

DFN = Departure from Normal.